

ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

**ACTIVITIES
OF THE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN**

APRIL 1, 2004 TO MARCH 31, 2005



ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE

“Maggie’s Quilt”

This quilt was donated to the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women in July 2001 by former Chairperson Dianne Porter. Dianne’s sister Maggie made the quilt from her family’s clothing. Maggie’s story can be found on page 48 of this report.



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January 2007

**Hon. Gail Shea, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8**

Dear Minister Shea:

I am pleased to present you with the 2004/2005 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements as well as a summary of Council's activities, publications, and collaborations with government.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Lund, Chairperson

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

This past year, my first full year as Chairperson of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, has been active and rewarding. Working towards equality for women in all spheres of Island life brings together diverse women, on the Advisory Council and in the women's community, to share a goal of full and active participation in Prince Edward Island's society, politics, culture, law, and economy.

This year, as Director Heidi Rankin and Researcher/Policy Analyst Patricia MacAulay took leaves of absence and were greatly missed, we met the challenge of continuity for Council by hiring past Advisory Council-employees Lisa Murphy (to act as Director) and Jane Ledwell (to act as Researcher/Policy Analyst). The Advisory Council is fortunate to have benefitted from the

skills and experience of all four of these women in 2004-05.

Last year, I brought my training as a facilitator to the table and initiated an ongoing process for Council Planning to help ensure that we move forward on issues of long-term concern for Island women and families. This year, the Advisory Council continued to discuss how best to include the voices of Island women in our policy planning and how to work more effectively and collaboratively with government to implement to change to improve the status of women in PEI. The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Gail Shea, has been open to building a more effective relationship, and we are moving forward on that front. We are also really pleased to have the support of Carolyn Bertram, the Status of Women critic for the Opposition.

A highlight of our work to build collaboration with government was a meeting of the full Advisory Council with Executive Council in late November. Each member of the Advisory Council had the opportunity to share her experience of the need for women's equality and to express the concerns of women in her community. The priorities we expressed for 2005 were 1) funding and support for family law legal aid, 2) sufficient financial resources for family violence prevention, and 3) electoral reforms resulting in proportional representation.

On the third point, we were pleased that the government formed a Commission on PEI's Electoral Future in early 2005, though we were disappointed to see women under-represented on the Commission. On the first two points, we look forward to the upcoming budget in the new fiscal year to signal government

leadership on family law legal aid and family violence prevention.

One issue that captured the media's attention in the past year was the Advisory Council's response to the Province's announced plan to appoint a fourth provincial court judge to assist in developing a domestic violence court. The Advisory Council was involved with other organizations in communicating with government around the more pressing needs in the area of family violence prevention, including family law legal aid, front-line support for women and children, and treatment for offenders. The Office of the Attorney General was open to hearing this information and in November the Premier halted the appointment of an additional judge. We celebrate a government that is willing to respond to input and change its mind to better meet the needs of the people it represents.

The release of our Policy Guide on Maternity and Parental Benefits closely coincided with maternity or parental leaves for me, as Chairperson, and Lisa Murphy, as Director. Our leaves helped illustrate the need for improved leave and benefits for new parents, too many of whom do not qualify for benefits or for job protection while they are on leave. We were happy to be asked by Elmer MacFadyen, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, to make specific recommendations about how employment standards could be changed to benefit new parents.

The Advisory Council's annual Purple Ribbon Campaign against Violence was a success again in 2004, with over 30,000 ribbons and information cards distributed across Prince Edward Island, with the partnership of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence

Prevention and the City of Charlottetown. We congratulate Mayor Clifford Lee for recognizing the importance of family violence prevention in his city and for initiating the Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force for Family Violence Prevention to conduct safety audits, family violence prevention training for city employees, and awareness-raising initiatives in the city.

This Annual Report reflects a summary of events and activities the Advisory Council undertook in 2004-05 on behalf of women and families across Prince Edward Island who want to see a more equal province. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Council office at any time for more detailed information or for copies of our publications.

Kirstin Lund, Chairperson

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

MANDATE AND MEETINGS

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEI ACSW) is a government-appointed provincial advisory agency made up of nine women who share a vision: respect and equality of opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion, wealth, or ability.

The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life. Over the years, the Council has

developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

The Advisory Council achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both the government and the community. The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*. This act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

Roles of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- serves as a community arm to the provincial government
- acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women on PEI

- conducts research on these identified concerns and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces, and community consultations to promote equality
- informs the Minister Responsible on the Status of Women about events and issues concerning women's equality
- works collaboratively with community organizations and government systems towards equality for all women
- initiates and participates in projects and events of benefit to Island women
- responds to enquiries from individuals, organizations, and government
- listens to women and validates their experience in understanding issues that affect them and their families
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women
- meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

Advisory Council meetings, 2004–05

- 83rd meeting: June 30, 2004, Crowbush
- 84th meeting: September 29, 2005, Kensington
- 85th meeting: November 30, 2005, Charlottetown

MEMBERS

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality.

Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior women.

Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms.

In 2004–05, the Advisory Council said goodbye and offered sincere thanks to Jackie MacNeill Doiron, of Charlottetown, who completed her term

of appointment on November 9, 2004, and to June Sencabaugh, who resigned from Council on September 29, 2004. At the end of fiscal year 2004–05, Council was still waiting for appointments to fill these vacancies.

Chairperson Kirstin Lund took parental leave from her self-employed work from January to April 2005 but remained available to Council staff for consultation and some media during her leave. She and her partner, Kevin Coles, and their son Bobby welcomed baby Eddie into the world on December 29, 2004.

MEMBERS

Kirstin Lund, Stratford — Chairperson

Council term: January 28, 2003, to January 28, 2006

Kirstin Lund has been a faculty member of UPEI's Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies since 1998, teaching courses in mediation, communication skills, and restorative justice. Since leaving the practice of law in 1996, she has coordinated many projects concerning conflict resolution and woman abuse prevention. More recently, she has coordinated research and project work in support of women's access to maternity and parental benefits and increasing the number of women in government. She has served on several boards related to advancing the status of women including Women's Network PEI, Transition House Association, and the PEI Crime Prevention Association.

Jackie MacNeill Doiron, Charlottetown — Vice-Chairperson

Council term: November 9, 1999, to November 9, 2004

A graduate of UPEI and Holland College, Jackie MacNeill Doiron works at the Summerside Taxation Centre and commutes from her home in Charlottetown. An active volunteer and fundraiser, Jackie brings to Council her special passion for the issues of senior women living in poverty after years of service to their communities. She is also a strong advocate for women in government.

**Elaine Rabinowitz, Breadalbane — Member
Council term: January 28, 2003, to January 28, 2006**

Elaine Rabinowitz is a Registered Nurse and works with Community Mental Health in Summerside. She is a founding and current member of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence, a member of the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee, and a previous board member of Transition House Association. Elaine also contributed to the board of the PEI Multicultural Association and was active in Home and School and Guiding. She brings to Council her dedicated commitment to an international view of women's issues and a special concern for diversity and immigration issues.

**Joan Savage, Summerside — Member
Council term: April 4, 2000, to April 4, 2005**

Joan is the Nurse Manager of Public Health Nursing with the East Prince Health Authority at the Summerside Health Centre. Joan has been presenting health information to women across PEI for over 20 years, through Holland College, East Prince Women's Information Centre, and the public health system. Her knowledge of health-care is always an asset to Council, especially in discerning ways to support women and children's wellness. Joan is also recognized as a very fine visual artist. She lives with her family in Summerside.

Wendy MacLaren, Morell — Member**Council term: October 10, 2000, to October 10, 2005**

Wendy is a Certified Early Childhood Educator and works with the Morell Early Childhood Development Centre. She has an extensive background working with youth as a teacher assistant, substitute teacher, special needs assistant, and workshop facilitator before receiving her certification in early childhood education. Active in her community, Wendy has volunteered with Girl Guides, minor sports, home and school, and 4-H. Her experience with early childhood education and her insights into maternity and parental benefits contribute greatly to Council. Wendy lives in Morell with her family.

Kim Bailey, Cornwall — Member**Council term: June 3, 2003, to June 3, 2006**

Kim Bailey was born and raised in Souris, and has made Cornwall her home for the last 11 years. Educated at the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, she holds degrees in Arts and Social Work, and a Masters of Education. After being a registered social worker for 14 years, she now works in education, as a school counsellor.

Darcie Pike-Wilkie, Alberton — Member**Council term: February 3, 2004, to February 3, 2007**

Early childhood educator Darcie Pike-Wilkie works at the Bloomfield Kindergarten and is an active parent, partner, and community volunteer. She brings to Council her hands-on knowledge of the challenges faced in the early

childhood care and education sector ensuring high quality care in rural PEI. She has valuable insights into women's traditional role in caring for children.

Aleah MacLennan, Tyne Valley — Member

Council term: February 3, 2004, to February 3, 2007

Aleah MacLennan is a Staff Nurse at Stewart Memorial Hospital in Tyne Valley. Her experience at the hospital has brought her a strong understanding of women's issues, especially woman abuse, in her community. Aleah is also a strong community volunteer, especially with the Women's Institute. She grew up in a farm family and has strong rural Island values. She shares with Council her perspective as an independent woman in rural PEI.

June Sencabaugh, Murray River — Member

Council term: appointed January 28, 2003; resigned Sept. 29, 2004

June Sencabaugh is past president of the Northumberland Minor Hockey Association and a former Village Commissioner for Murray River. June is a very active member of the Northumberland Recreation Association. She worked many years with Island Tel as a service representative and is presently retired. June is a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

STAFF

Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time staff members in 2004–05, after combining the duties of the researcher/policy analyst and communications coordinator into one full-time position. The Advisory Council hires one additional staff member, Sandy Kowalik, on contract for project coordination. Over the years, Betty Belaire contributed a great deal to Council on various contracts and as a volunteer. Council acknowledged her for this work in 2004.

At the end of April 2004, both director Heidi Rankin and researcher/policy analyst Patricia MacAulay commenced one-year leaves of absence.

Heidi Rankin, Director

Heidi joined Council in April 1997 as the Communications Coordinator; she worked as Acting Director from May 2000, and began Director duties in May

Former director, Lisa Murphy, came on as acting director. Jane Ledwell, former contract worker for the ACSW, came on as acting researcher/policy analyst.

Lisa Murphy began a parental leave, with full salary top-up from the Advisory Council, on March 7, 2005. She and her partner, Kevin Brooks, welcomed Ava Bernadette Brooks Murphy into their family. Sandy Kowalik was hired to work part-time during Lisa's leave.

Between January and April 2005, Council hosted Tasha Ellis, a UPEI Family and Nutritional Sciences intern. Tasha worked 32 hours between January and April, providing support to Jane. She received an excellent evaluation.

2002. She requested a leave of absence from May 2004 to May 2005.

Lisa Murphy, Director (Acting) from May 2004 to year end

Lisa joined Council staff in May 1990. She resigned as Director in May 2002 and was asked to return as Acting Director in May 2004 during Heidi's leave.

Patricia MacAulay, Researcher/Policy Analyst

Patricia joined the staff in November 2000 to work part-time. She requested a leave of absence from May 2004 to May 2005.

Jane Ledwell, Researcher/Policy Analyst (Acting) from June 2004

Jane Ledwell worked on contract for Council from 2000 to 2001. She was asked to fill duties of researcher/policy analyst (combined with duties of communications coordinator) full-time during Patricia's leave.

Becky Tramley, Administrative Assistant

Becky joined Council in October 1986 and works part-time.

Sandy Kowalik

Sandy works on a contract basis at the Council as project support and Purple Ribbon coordinator. She also worked part-time coordinating projects for Council during Lisa's parental leave in 2005.

Staff Development

- Chairperson Kirstin Lund facilitated a staff strategic planning session for outgoing, incoming, and continuing staff on April 15, 2004.
- Staff meetings July 8, July 28, August 19, December 2, December 17, January 9.
- Team-building workshop facilitated by Julie Devon Dodd, November 17, 2004.

NATIONAL COALITION OF ADVISORY COUNCILS

The national Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy.

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Manitoba. The Coalition is usually co-chaired by two provincial/territorial Councils.

List of Major Activities, 2004–05

- Much of the work involved advocating at the federal level for a national body dedicated to status of women issues. There was a major development on this front following the June 2004 Federal Election, when Parliament created a Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women.
- Coalition meetings and consultations were held by teleconference in 2004–05 while the Coalition sought meetings with Hon. Liza Frulla, federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

POLICY AND RESEARCH

COUNCIL PLANNING

During its 2003–04 fiscal year, the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women formalized a Council Planning process with the leadership and facilitation of Chairperson Kirstin Lund. This work continued in 2004–05. The goal of Council Planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on

Council's priorities and that it looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council Planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process.

Objectives Set by Council (2003 Meetings)

- To ensure government accountability to PEI women
- To better influence government policy and services
- To bring the voices of PEI women to our policy work
- To improve collaboration and communication with government
- To raise public awareness about women's equality issues

Progress on Council Planning, 2004–05

- At the June meeting, Council developed possible actions around the objectives, “To bring the voices of the diversity of PEI women to our policy work,” “To improve collaboration/communication with government,” and “To raise public awareness about women’s equality issues.”
- At the September meeting, Council reviewed and updated Action Plans developed for the objectives “To ensure accountability to PEI women,” and “To better influence government policy and services.”
- Council developed an Action Plan for the objective “To improve collaboration with government.”
- Council set a priority on developing a “report card” to follow up on government’s actions from Policy Guide recommendations, celebrating successes and pressing for change where change is needed.
- In 2005, Council prepared to respond to the Program Renewal process initiated by the Province.
- In April 2004, Patricia MacAulay and Heidi Rankin created a document outlining the Policy Guide development process in detail, reflecting Council’s planning objectives and emerging action plans.
- Over the course of 2004–05, Patricia MacAulay and Lisa Murphy drafted a simplified *Orientation Handbook* for Advisory Council members.

POLICY GUIDES

Since 2001, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has developed Policy Guides on issues that Council members and other Island women have identified as important to them. Policy Guides are based on current research, including PEI-specific data whenever it is available.

As in other parts of its work, the Advisory Council strives to base Policy Guides on feminist analysis, principles, and processes, including consultation and collaboration. Analysis includes looking at diversities among women, including

age, social and economic status, ability, and sexual orientation.

Each Policy Guide includes a) analysis of what current policy means for Island women, b) recommendations to government, with a view to improving the status of women and families, and c) public education materials. Guides are released to government and the public with a media conference.

In 2004–05, the Council released one policy guide, on Maternity and Parental Benefits. This was released at a press conference in Kensington on September 29, 2004.

Contents of Maternity and Parental Benefits Policy Guide

- Policy Guide, including analysis and recommendations
- Backgrounder
- Fact Sheet
- Frequently Asked Questions

Related Materials and Events

- "ACSW Calls for Improved Access to Adequate Maternity and Parental Benefits," press release, September 29, 2004.
- Margie Carmichael and Laurie Murphy performed Margie Carmichael's song "Babies Are Born" at the press conference.
- Speakers at the press conference included Council Chairperson Kirstin Lund, Director Lisa Murphy, Researcher/Policy Analyst Jane Ledwell, and Members Wendy McLaren and Darcie Pike-Wilkie.
- The conference was attended by CBC-TV and the Summerside *Journal-Pioneer*.
- Chairperson Kirstin Lund provided interviews for CBC Radio and the *Guardian*.

Follow-up on Maternity and Parental Benefits Policy Guide

- Meetings with representatives of the Canadian Labour Congress/PEI Federation of Labour (October 27, 2004) and with BORN PEI — Birth Options Research Network (October 27, 2004).
- Meeting with Hon. Elmer MacFadyen, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, December 20, 2004.
 - Memorandum to Min. MacFadyen recommending changes to the *Employment Standards Act* to improve access to job-protected maternity and parental leave, submitted March 2, 2005.

UPCOMING POLICY GUIDES

The Advisory Council had set “senior women” and “women in decision-making” as its next two Policy Guide themes. In the course of 2004–05, an emerging focus on electoral reform in

the province led Council to decide to focus the “women and decision-making” Guide on “women and electoral reform” and to complete this Guide ahead of the one on senior women.

Preparatory Research and Policy Work on Electoral Reform

- Submitted a letter to Premier Pat Binns expressing concern about the under-representation of women on the Commission on PEI's Electoral Future, February 22, 2005.
- Supported several Island women to prepare letters of application to Prime Minister Paul Martin and MPs for the vacant PEI Senate seat; offered letters of support for their applications.

FOLLOW-UP AND ONGOING POLICY WORK

Council has made it a high priority to follow up on recommendations made in Policy Guides and to keep on top of developments regarding priority issues. An important aspect of this follow-up is meeting with government officials to work collaboratively towards implementing recommendations.

In 2004–05, the most important step in support of following up recommendations was a meeting of the full Advisory Council with the full Executive Council of government on November 30, 2004. The Advisory Council went into the meeting with three messages:

- 1) We want a collaborative relationship with government.
- 2) We want to support and celebrate the work that government does;

however, we also want to see the status of women improve on PEI. Therefore, we need to balance those concerns.

- 3) We want to assist government to make better policies for Prince Edward Island families.

During the session with Executive Council, ACSW Chairperson Kirstin Lund said that the Advisory Council's top priority issues for the coming 12 months included the following:

- 1) funding and support for family law legal aid,
- 2) sufficient financial resources for family violence prevention, and, on a less tight timeline, and
- 3) electoral reforms resulting in proportional representation.

List of Past Policy Guides

- Early Childhood Care and Education, June 2003
- Women and Unpaid Work, January 2003
- Women's Health, September 2002
- Family Law, February 2002
- Addiction Services for Women, May 2001

Policy Guide Follow-up with Government

- Meeting with Executive Council, November 30, 2004.
- Publication of "PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Policy Guides: A Tool for Collaborating with Government," in support of the meeting with Executive Council.
- Submission of minutes of the meeting with Executive Council to all members, with an emphasis on Policy Guide recommendations relevant for each department, December 15, 2004.
- Compilation of "quick facts" about the status of women on PEI from Policy Guides (for Council's reference, media, and communications purposes).

Policy Guide Follow-up with Community

- Meeting regarding the proposed national program for early childhood care and education, with Sonya Corrigan and Patricia MacAulay from the Early Childhood Development Association, December 21, 2004.
- Meeting with Mary Clarke at Lacey House, for an update on addiction services for women, January 30, 2005.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

ENQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

The Advisory Council responds to enquiries from individuals, groups, and government on a variety of questions and issues. These range from requests for statistical information to referrals, crisis calls, and requests for advocacy. People make enquiries in person, by telephone, by e-mail, and by correspondence. Requests for information in crisis or advocacy situations are often complex calls from women who have tried to get information or service without success. The Advisory Council does not have the

mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women; however, it offers support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual enquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

The period from January to March 2005 was unusually active for crisis calls from women. Issues included family violence, issues with courts, and need for referrals.

About Enquiries

- Enquiries regarding government agencies and programs covered Child and Family Services, Addiction Services, Social Assistance, and Maintenance Enforcement.

- Enquiries regarding court matters included questions about use of alternative measures in abuse cases and the appropriateness of sentencing for various crimes.
- Referrals were frequently made to CLIA's Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so.
- General enquiries covered a wide range of topics: domestic abuse, elder abuse, woman-specific health services (especially reproductive endocrinology), poverty, need for emergency and affordable housing, funding for training and education, support for off-Island abortion services, maternity and parental benefits, women and sports, portrayal of women in media, and age of sexual consent.
- Requests for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be frequent.

MEDIA

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to media requests for comment and analysis on issues that affect the lives of women

and families. Ordinarily, the approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Director, and the Researcher/Policy Analyst.

List of News Releases, 2004-05

- "Women's Equality Must Be on Political Agenda" (June 23)
- "Advisory Council on the Status of Women Holds 83rd Meeting" (June 30)
- "Advisory Council on the Status of Women Calls for Improved Access to Adequate Maternity and Parental Benefits" (September 29)
- "PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Launches Annual Purple Ribbon Campaign" (October 27)
- Meeting review of December 20 meeting with Minister Elmer MacFadyen (Women's Network's January Newsletter)

List of Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2004-05

- Letter supporting women running in federal election (June)
- Response to an article on restraining orders (August 4)
- Letter re: appointment of a 4th provincial court judge (August 27 and 29)
- Letter re: inappropriate cartoon (September 22)

- Support for politicians changing their minds on issues
- Response to rescindment of fourth judge appointment
- "We Must Keep Striving for an End to Violence," Guest opinion for Purple Ribbon (December 7)
- Guest opinion for International Women's Day (March 8)

Interview Requests, 2004-05

- Requests for comment by the Chairperson on women in government, especially around the Federal Election (June)
- Requests for comment by the Chairperson on provincial court judge appointment for newspaper and television (August and September)
- Requests for comment by the Chairperson on maternity and parental benefits, at time of Policy Guide release (September)

Website

- Website feature: "Council Shares Priorities with Cabinet" (December 2004)
- The Advisory Council maintains up-to-date information about the Council and its activities on its Website, <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

VOTERS' GUIDES TO THE ISSUES

As part of its legislated mandate to inform and educate the public on the status of women in PEI, the Advisory Council shares analysis and key questions on issues with voters during provincial

and federal elections, referendums, and plebiscites.

In 2004–05, there was a federal election called for June 28, 2004.

Initiatives to Inform and Educate Voters: Federal Election 2004

- The Advisory Council's *Federal Election 2004: Guide to the Issues* highlighted eight women's equality issues: 1) legal aid, 2) divorce reform, 3) abortion rights, 4) unpaid work, 5) early childhood care and education, 6) parental benefits, 7) women's voices, and 8) electoral reform.
- The Guide was mailed out along with a letter about women in government, by Kirstin Lund, and a list of useful Web links.
- Follow-up included correspondence with local candidates, review of campaign materials, review of national parties' platforms, compilation of candidates' questionnaire responses, and analysis of questionnaire responses.
- Council's analysis was summarized in the on-line document, "Key Election Issues for Island Women: Local Candidates Respond," and in a news release on June 23.
- Following the election, Council sent out a press release including comments on the results, June 30.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered 716 in March 2005. They receive Council publications, including occasional *Activities Updates*. Members of the electronic mailing list receive a weekly listing of community events and notices, an

initiative that began in February 2005. Becky Tramley maintains the ACSW's mailing lists.

The Advisory Council also regularly sends notes of congratulations to individual women and groups who have achieved great things or made a difference in their communities.

Activities Updates, 2004–05

- April 2004 — Update on Staffing Changes
- Fall 2004 — *Activities Update*

Mail-outs, 2004–05

- Federal election materials, letter from the chairperson, and community notices (June 2004)
- *Activities Update*, Annual Report 2003–04, Maternity and Parental Benefits Policy Guide, and Purple Ribbon Campaign materials (November 2004)
- International Women's Day materials, including a poster with inspiring quotes from Island women and a resource on "Which Women's Group Is Which" (March 2005)

COMMUNITY LIAISON

MEETINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE ON ISSUES

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council.

Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence on issues of concern.

Selected Meetings, 2004-05

- Meetings with Hon. Gail Shea, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (June 23, October 7, November 3, December 10)
- Meetings with Sandy Bentley, Interministerial Women's Secretariat (June 23, June 29, September 8, October 19)
- Community consultation with Status of Women Canada (May 4)
- Round-table discussion between members of the Opposition Office and women's organizations, facilitated by Kirstin Lund (May 17)
- Various meetings with Women's Network representatives for briefings on projects on youth sexual health and maternity and parental benefits (June)
- Women's Issues Tea, sponsored by the NDP (June 24)
- Meeting with Andrea Simpson, Status of Women Canada (September 17)
- Update on issues with Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy (September 17)

- Meeting with Teresa Hennebery and Olive Moase, Dept. of Health and Social Services (September 16)
- Meetings of Healthy Child Development networks: Pregnancy, Birth, and Infancy network (August 24 and September 23), Early Childhood Care and Education network (August 25), and Parental Support Network (September 9)
- Orientation to Victim Services (October 6)
- Presentation to government caucus on livable income issues, as part of the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income (October 22); subsequent presentation to the Official Opposition caucus (February 17)
- Meeting of interested women's organizations and individuals regarding access to abortion services (March 30)

Selected Correspondence on Issues, 2004-05

- Meetings with the Min. Gail Shea are supported by a memorandum outlining issues. These memos covered several issues not reflected elsewhere in this report, including the following: support for continued funding for the Best Start Program and concerns about gender and diversity analysis in provincial Program Renewal.
- Correspondence with Hon. Mike Currie expressing concern about a proposed strip club in Prince County (June 25)
- Nominations Package to Minister Shea (December 10, follow-up February 4)
- Correspondence with Hon. Chester Gillan, Minister of Health and Social Services, on women's access to reproductive endocrinology (January 12)
- Memorandum to Minister Shea for International Women's Day (March 8)

EVENTS

Advisory Council members and staff participate in community-led events whenever possible. The Advisory Council's role at events is often to bring a gender and diversity perspective to the

event: to share research and perspectives on how the issues being discussed may affect women differently from men or positively or negatively affect diverse groups.

Selected Events, 2004–05

- LEAF PEI public talks, Ronald Murphy, Dalhousie Law Professor (Charlottetown May 14; Summerside May 15)
- Women's Institute Regional Conferences (attended by members Wendy, Darcie, and Jackie in May)
- Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) Regional Consultation, Halifax, Nova Scotia (June 10–11; written report submitted to the Advisory Council)
- Talking Circle on the Rights of Women and Children hosted by CUSO, WUSC, and Women's Network PEI (June 17)
- Information kiosk with policy guides at CUSO World AGM (June 18)
- DreamQuest at Beaumaris Retreat Centre, Brackley (June 18–19)
- Book launch of *Aboriginal Women: Leaders Among Us*, hosted by the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI, National Aboriginal Day (June 21)
- Seminar (co-presented with Women's Network PEI) on influencing public policy for a "Gender and Environment" MA class at UPEI (August 3)

- Press conference advocating for funding for front-line services for family violence prevention (October 1)
- "It's About Time: An Initiative to Elect More Women in PEI" workshop, PEI Coalition for Women in Government workshop (October 15)
- Celebration of 75th Anniversary of Persons Day (October 15)
- Seniors Influencing Public Policy workshop, PEI Senior Citizens' Federation, Summerside (November 10)
- Presentation to student groups at Charlottetown Rural High School Career Day (November 23)
- Launch of Herstory report Woman Abuse and the PEI Justice System and accompanying resources (November 23)
- Healthy Child Development Thinktank (October 21)
- PEI Literacy Summit (November 4–5)
- Launch of Silent Witness Project, UPSE Annual Meeting (November 13)
- Press conference on electing more women, PEI Coalition for Women in Government (December 10)
- AIDS PEI workshop on provincial policy on HIV/AIDS prevention, support, and treatment (January 18)
- 30th Anniversary celebration for CLIA (January 31)
- Young Leaders' Luncheon, "How the Media Influences Public Opinion" (February 2)
- City of Charlottetown's press conference launching family violence prevention initiatives (February 3)

- Presentation to Canada World Youth volunteers on the under-representation of women in Canadian government (February 18)
- PFLAG PEI workshops, "Creating Safe Communities" (Montague, February 23; Charlottetown, March 8)
- Community Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education, hosted by Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy (March 1)
- Women in Fisheries Rally, Souris, in support of inshore fishers and their families
- Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention Planning Day (March 7)
- Atlantic Parental Benefits workshop and follow-up (March 10, 11, and 13)

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships involve commitment to participate in the work of coalitions, task forces, research projects, and other community or collectively led activities. Council's policy development process relies on collaboration with organizations that are leading change on issues important to women and families. Participating actively as partners on

projects is an important way that the Advisory Council contributes to other community groups' ability to do their work: the Advisory Council has a responsibility to help press recommendations forward over the longer term for groups that have short-term or project-based funding.

List of Partnerships

- *Ad Hoc Attorney General's Committee Report on Spousal Abuse*
- Female Reintegration Committee
- Justice Options for Women.
- LEAF National and LEAF PEI
- Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government
- PEI Labyrinths in Public Places Committee
- PEI Public Transit Coalition
- PEI Senior Citizens' Federation project: Seniors Influencing Public Policy

- PEI Women's Coalition: Social Justice and Family Legal Aid for Women and Children project
- PEI Working Group for a Livable Income
- Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention
- Victim Services Advisory Committee
- Women's Network PEI Atlantic Parental Benefits Advisory Committee
- Women's Network PEI DAME (Developing Actions for Meaningful Employment) Advisory Committee
- Women's Network PEI Youth Sexual Health Caucus

LEADERSHIP IN ANNUAL EVENTS

PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in the effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with local facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near

December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also helps organize a noontime December 6 Memorial Service in Charlottetown.

This year, the Council's 14th Purple Ribbon Campaign was supported by the City of Charlottetown and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2004

- Theme for the year: How Family Violence Affects Children
- Highlighted Statistic: In 2004 1,342 women used violence support services across PEI.
- Number of ribbons and cards distributed: 30,000 English; 5,000 French

- The Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee was held November 3, 2004, at the Coles Building, Charlottetown. The event was promoted in the *Guardian* on November 1 after a press release announcing the campaign launch.
- “We Must Keep Striving for an End to Violence” by Lisa Murphy was published as a guest opinion in the *Guardian* (December 7)
- The Advisory Council brought together and coordinated the Memorial Service planning committee for the Charlottetown December 6 service, co-emceed by Kim Devine and Jane Ledwell. Summerside’s Memorial Service was coordinated by East Prince Women’s Information Centre.
- The Memorial Service highlighted UPSE’s Silent Witness project.
- Purple Ribbon Campaign Coordinator Sandy Kowalik was able to use some time in early 2005 to research the lives of women who had been murdered on Prince Edward Island.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8 each year. Events on International Women's Day and throughout the week surrounding it recognize the ongoing struggle of women for equity, locally and globally. Often, International Women's Day events and education focus on women's equality in the workplace, since IWD's roots are in the labour movement.

For IWD 2005, Council directed staff to reduce the costs associated with IWD events and to put their energy into creating a low-cost event or product that could be used across the Island, not just in Charlottetown. In consultation with Council, staff developed a poster highlighting artwork by Christine Trainor and inspiring quotations from a diversity of well-known Island women. The reverse of the poster provided general information about the ACSW.

Highlights from International Women's Day, 2005

- Creation of International Women's Day quotes poster, and distribution to over 700 individuals and groups.
- Guest opinion for Charlottetown *Guardian* and Summerside *Journal-Pioneer*.

BURSARIES FOR WOMEN

Each year, the Advisory Council awards three bursaries for post-secondary education. Two of these bursaries go to two women to help them continue their studies at the University of Prince

Edward Island and Holland College. The third bursary, named for late Council vice-chairperson Inge Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada.

Bursary Recipients

- University of Prince Edward Island Bursary: Not awarded
- Holland College Bursary: Not awarded
- Inge Blackett Bursary: Muvedeta Barucija

PERSONS DAY

October 18 each year recognizes the date that women in Canada were first acknowledged as “persons” under the law in 1929, after the efforts of

pioneering women. Being declared “persons” made women eligible for Senate appointments and other legal rights.

Highlights from Persons Day

- With LEAF PEI, the Coalition for Women in Government, and Status of Women Canada, the ACSW helped coordinate, a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Persons Day. The event featured comments by Senator Catherine Callbeck, a dramatic presentation of the historical issues and debates by Laurie Murphy and Jen Campbell, and an anniversary cake. It was held as the closing event of a workshop on women in government on October 15 at the Quality Inn, Charlottetown. Over 30 people attended.
- Council created, published, and distributed a promotional poster, designed by Lisa Murphy.

PUBLICATIONS LIST

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned above. These publications are usually available directly from the Advisory Council or (in most cases) on its Website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

- “2004 Purple Ribbon Campaign against Violence” (Information Card, November 2004)
- *Activities Update* (Newsletter for Fall 2004)
- “Advisory Council Update—April 2004” (Update on new Council members and staff, April 2004)
- *Federal Election 2004: Guide to the Issues* (Election guide, May 2004)
- “International Women’s Day, March 8, 2005” (Poster with image, “Expect Some Ghosting,” by Christine Trainor, plus ACSW information and quotations, March 2005)
- *Key Election Issues for Island Women: Local Candidates Respond* (Follow-up to the “Federal Election 2004: Guide to the Issues,” June 23, 2004)
- *Maternity and Parental Benefits Policy Guide* (September 2004)
- *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* (3rd printing, 2004)

- “PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Policy Guides: A Tool for Collaborating with Government” (One-page policy guide summary, November 30, 2004)
- “Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women: Meeting with Prince Edward Island Executive Council” (Minutes of Meeting, November 30, 2005)
- “Which Women’s Group Is Which on PEI?” (Guide to women’s organizations, February 2005)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

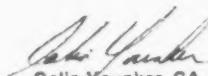
AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the balance sheet of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2005 and the statements of revenues, expenditures and surplus and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2005 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Colin Younker, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
September 1, 2005

STATEMENT 1

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BALANCE SHEET

MARCH 31, 2005

	2005	2004
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$5,478	\$8,996
Accounts receivable	847	1,918
Prepaid expenses	1,030	709
	\$7,355	\$9,623
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$8,109	\$8,012
Surplus	1,246	1,611
	\$7,355	\$9,623

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Chairperson: K. AldeMember: Elaine Selwyn

STATEMENT 2

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Revenues		
Provincial appropriation - Note 2	\$149,120	\$149,100
Program revenues	1,180	1,000
Miscellaneous revenues	488	129
	\$150,788	\$150,279
Expenditures		
Administration	3,892	5,358
Bursary	550	622
Conferences	75	2,318
Equipment leases - Notes 1(b) and 3	2,630	2,630
Equipment purchases - Note 1(a)	1,418	631
Honorary	11,972	12,238
Materials and supplies	4,813	8,745
Program expenses	8,718	8,830
Salaries and benefits	118,554	105,485
Travel - In Province	2,735	2,549
	153,153	149,394
Excess revenue (expenditures) for the year	(385)	835
Surplus, beginning of year	1,611	778
Surplus, end of year	\$1,246	\$1,611

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

STATEMENT 3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Cash received from Province of PEI	\$149,120	\$149,100
Cash received from programs	1,180	1,000
Cash received from miscellaneous revenues	488	128
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(119,370)	(108,380)
Cash paid for materials and services	(32,936)	(17,327)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(1,516)	\$12
Cash, beginning of year	\$,399	\$,681
Cash, end of year	\$,342	\$,399

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2005

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

These statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for Not-For-Profit organizations. Accordingly:

(a) Capital assets are expensed when purchased.

(b) Leases are treated as operating leases and lease costs are expensed as they become due.

2. Provincial Appropriation.

The Provincial Appropriation amount of \$149,120 includes an operating grant of \$147,800 and other provincial grants totaling \$1,320.

3. Equipment Lease.

A photocopier is leased until August 31, 2006 and the annual lease commitments are \$2,830.

4. Pension Costs.

Employees of the Council are members of the Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Plan. The employer's share of the plan benefits plus any additional future actuarial liabilities are assumed by the Province of PEI and are not reflected in the Council's financial statements.

5. Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities.

The fair value of the entity's cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximates their carrying values.

MAGGIE'S QUILT

~ the story behind the quilt on the cover of this Annual Report

“He systematically chipped away at my confidence, my self-esteem, my courage, and my choices, and he did it so skillfully; they were gone before I realized what was happening. I was not a doormat when I met him. I wasn’t a victim waiting to be exploited. Then, there I was, manipulated and abused. And trapped.

“He was handsome and romantic and clever. I thought, why, here comes my prince and I will live happily ever after. But he would find little ways to punish me. He was cruel, in little ways, in big ones. He made me feel small. Small, smaller, smallest, until I all but disappeared. When he hit me . . . the first time, it was a shock.

No one had ever hit me before. I should have left right that minute. Somehow, he made me feel I’d deserved it. I thought, once I learned how to handle his temper everything would be fine again. But it only got worse.

“I had to leave after the usual methods failed to bring about change. I had tried counselling and support groups. I won’t be demeaned again, not by anyone. Not ever again.

“I took the pieces, the broken part of myself and have sewn them back together in a new way. With the love and help of my family and community, I intend to make the rest of my life as beautiful as this quilt.”



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

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